

# Brookline Preservation Commission Demolition Application Report

Address: 60 Princeton Road

Petitioner: Aurel Garban

Building types: house and attached garage

National Register Listing (if Applicable): n/a



## Historical/Architectural Significance:

This brick-veneer ranch house was designed by architect David Joseph Abrahams and built by the Mimuar Realty Company in 1952 for owner Harry Krivitsky. The house is one of a series of five ranches along the east side of Princeton Road, between Lagrange and Newton Street. A character-defining element of the design is the U-shape of the house, with twin front gables. The entry is recessed between the two projecting bays. Windows are steel-frame casements, including a band that wraps around the north-west front corner (presumably a kitchen/dining area) and appear to be original to the house. The large chimney and low-slope of the roof are other elements typical of the ranch style.



60 Princeton Rd

Abrahams (1901-?) studied at MIT and practiced as David J. Abrahams and Associates, with offices at 651 Boylston Street in Boston. His bio in the 1960 AIA directory lists houses he designed on Cape Cod and in Newton, Swamscott, Brookline, Leominster and Lowell. Among his other work were commissions for the design of Temple Beth El in Belmont, the Stop & Shop Supermarket in Cambridge, the Somerset Hotel and a redesign of the facade of William Filene's Sons main store, both in Boston. In 1938 he was awarded a first prize for a design of a residence by Better Homes & Gardens in 1938 and another prize from House & Garden magazine in 1946.

After World War II, Abrahams transitioned from houses in traditional styles to more modernistic ranches and contemporary designs. He lectured at the Boston Architectural Center in the late 1950s.

On Princeton Road, Abrahams also designed the houses at nos. 30 and 102. Other houses along the road were based on plans by Harry Ramsey, Salsberg & Le Blanc, Francis Dooley, J.L.R. Chandler and Deck House. More research is needed to determine the extent and significance of Abraham's work in the greater-Boston area.





The house at 60 Princeton Road meets the following criteria for an initial determination of significance:

- c. The building is associated with one or more significant historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town or Commonwealth; and
- d. The building is historically or architecturally significant in terms of its period, style, method of construction, or its association with a significant architect or builder, either by itself or as part of a group of buildings.

The house retains its integrity in terms of its location setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. It forms part of the group of houses along this section of Princeton Road built between 1940 and 1954 in variations of the ranch and split-level typologies.



Streetscape along Princeton Road

60 Princeton Rd  
November 2014



50 Princeton Rd



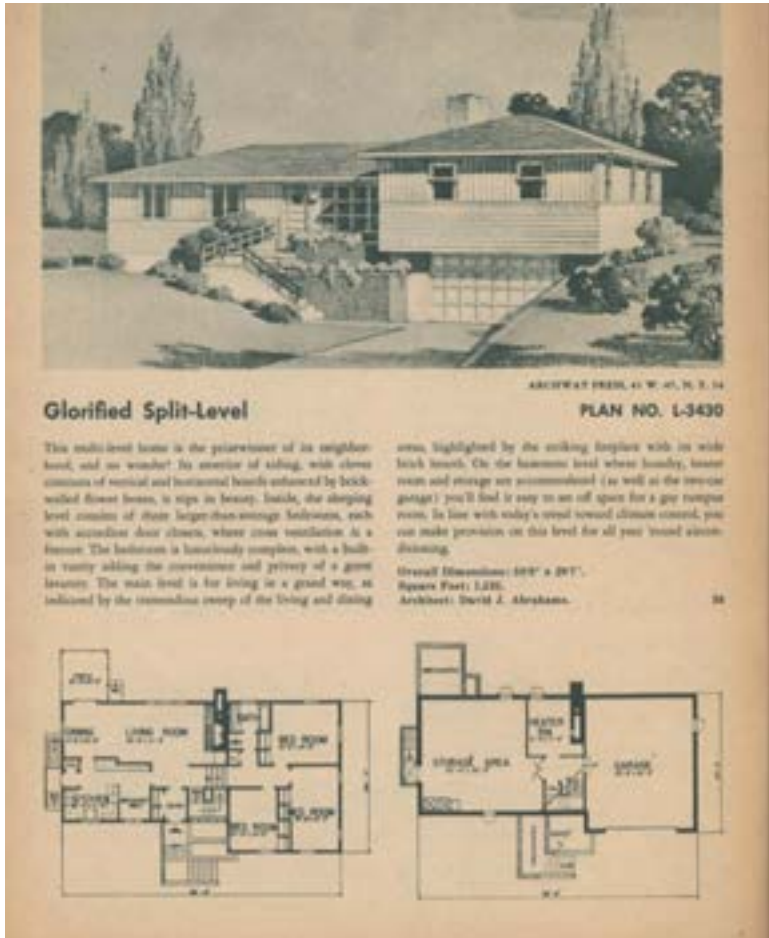
70 Princeton Rd



house at 210 Walnut Street  
designed by Abrahams, also in 1952



60 Princeton Rd  
November 2014



Drawings of suburban houses  
by David J. Abrahams

Photo below courtesy of Historic New  
England

